Secty. II-27—100,000—21-5-51.

FOOD (1949) Department.

Ms SERIES.

G.O. No. 630

Dated 1-8-1949

[Despatch Abstract.]

Sub:- Agriculture - Intensive cultivation Schemes Hon'ble Sri Jairamdas Daulatram's discussions on 4.6.1949 with Hon'ble Ministers and Government officers at Madras - Papers - Recorded.

Extracts of Sri Daulatram's talks with Ministers, taken from the Hindu dated 5.6.1949.

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2. The conference was attended by the Premier, Dr. T.S.S. Rajan, Mr. M. Bhaktavatsalam, Mr. K. Madhava Menon Mr. Roche Victoria and other Ministers, the members of the Board of Revenue, the Chief Engineer, the Heads of Departments and the Secretaries to the Government concerned. Mr. S.Y. Krishnaswamy Joint Food Secretary, Government of India, was present.

3. On the conference assembling Dr. Rajan welcomed Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram and expressed the hope that as a result of his visit to Madras and the discussions, substantial improvement would result in the food position in the Province.

4. Mr. Daultaram in his preliminary remarks made a general survey of the food position and explained why the Government of India were anxious that the food production schemes should be accelerated and production maximised before the end of December, 1951. He pointed out that India was importing over Rs. 100 crores worth of foodgrains every year thus depriving the country of capital goods required for industrialisation and consumers' goods which would help in lowering the cost of living. Even the surplus provinces were suffering because at the instance of the Government of India, they were asked to pool all their energies towards the production of food for the benefit of deficit areas, instead of their being able to carry out their normal development activities.

5. The Food Minister indicated the lines on which the Government of India would be prepared to help the Provincial Governments, namely, (1) by way of some financial help to the extent possible, consistent with the growing needs of the Government of India, of the Provincial Governments and also of the States too; (2) by way of lending the Defence Department's technical personnel and making available earth-moving machinery; (3) by way of co-ordinating the efforts of all the provinces so as to fit in with the basic plan for agricultural production and (4) by providing a central agency for getting over movement and transport difficulties.

6. Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram made the following suggestions for consideration by the Provincial Government. There should be a quick and effective machinery for giving administrative and financial sanctions to "Grow More food Schemes"; for this purpose there should also be a provincial Cabinet Committee with the Finance Minister as one of its members and a Food Production Commissioner who should attend exclusively to food production work without being encumbered with other work. The Provincial Government should formulate its requirements of iron, steel, cement, coal, diesel oil, etc., for the Five Year Plan or at least for the next two years under that plan and remind the Government of India so that Pressure could be brought to bear by his Ministry upon the other Ministries in the Centre. These matters, he added, could be thrashed out at a conference of the Central and Provincial Ministers.

7. Dealing with the financial aspect of the problem the Food Minister suggested that they should plan on a war-time basis and should direct funds and personnel immediately to the production schemes and slow down their building programmes so that the technical personnel could be diverted for carrying out food programme work. He added that popular enthusiasm should be developed by the provincial Ministers during their tours and create a spirit of competition and emulation among cultivators by the institution of schemes for prizes and grant of materials.

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11. Mr. Jairamdas declared that though the Government of India would not give a guarantee about making funds available every year for the "Grow More Food Schemes" because of financial difficulties, it could be taken for granted that unless something out of the ordinary happened money would be made available every year, particulalry because the Grow More Food scheme was part of the five-year post-war plan.

12. It was also agreed that the procurement bonus to the extent of Rupees two crores given by the Government of India on the basis of procurement done in this province could be utilised for food production.

13. As regards agricultural schemes which are not eligible for grant under the ordinary Grow More Food plan Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram suggested that for the period prior to September, 1948 the amount could be utilised for procurement also but for bonus earned after this period the conditions stated above would hold good. He also agreed that if the tempo of the tank schemes was quickened and more funds were necessary for this, the question of diversion of the bonus for the tank scheme could be utilised.

Subsidy for seed distribution urged

15. The schemes of the Agricultural Department under the Grow More Food campaign were then discussed. The Director of Agriculture urged the grant of a subsidy by the Government of India for seed distribution schemes which, was costing them about Rs. 46 lakhs and that the Government of India had recently stopped giving such subsidies. No doubt subsidy was being given for seed multiplication schemes but since the cost of the seed was being recovered from the ryots, practically the expenditure incurred on the multiplication was only a portion of the total expenditure. It was distribution which was the coastliest item. He urged that the subsidy was needed towards reducing the cost of tractor ploughing on marginal lands, the yield of which was very low in Madras.

16. It was explained to India's Food Minister that all the good lands in Madras were already under cultivation that the marginal lands in Madras were already under cultivation that the marginal lands were of an extremely poor quality and the conditions in Madras could not be compared with the tractor ploughing schemes in United Province.

17. Mr. J. Daulatram enquired about the arrangements made in Madras for the distribution of green manure seeds particulalry to the deltas where they were found to produce good results and for bring alkaline lands and lands infested with weeds under cultivation. He also wanted that steps should be taken to prevent the misuse of fertilizers and their diversion to commercial crops and to ensure that tyres and iron materials reached

the actual grower of food.

It was practically admitted at the Conference that it would be impossible to ensure this, though attempts to find out a solution would not be given up.

/True copy/

Sub: Agriculture - Intensive Cultivation Scheme - Hon'ble Sri Jairamdas Daulatram's talks on 4.6.1949 with Hon'ble Ministers and Government Officers at Madras.

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Please see the extracts, at pp. 1-4 c.f. of the Hon'ble Sri Jairamdas Daulatram's talks with the Provincial Ministers and officials during his visit to Madras on 4.6.1949. During those talks, Sri Jairamdas has made the following suggestions.

i) There should be a quick and effective machinery for giving administrative and financial sanctions to "Grow More Food" schemes. For this purpose there should also be a Provincial Cabinet Committee with the Finance Ministers as one of its members and a Food Production Commissioner who should attend exclusively to food production work without being encumbered by other works.

ii) The Provincial Government should formulate its requirements of iron and steel, cement, coal, diesel oil etc. for the Five Year plan or at least for the next two years under that plan and remind the Government of India, so that pressure could be brought to bear by the Agricultural Ministry on other Ministers in the Centre.

iii) These matters should be thrashed out at a Conference of Central and Provincial Ministers.

iv) The Government should plan the sch-eme on a War time basis and should direct funds and personnel immediately to production schemes and slow down their building programmes, so that the technical personnel could be diverted for carrying out food programme work.

v) Popular enthusiasm should be developed by the Provincial Ministers during their tours and a spirit of competition and emulation created by the institution of prizes for good cultivation practices.

vi) Procurement bonus to the extent of Two Crores of Rupees by the Government of India may be utilised for Food Production.

Item (i) on p. 1 above: At the high level Inter-departmental Conference held on 20.6.1949 it has already been decided to form a Cabinet Committee for the purposes and to relieve the Food Production Commissioner of other work by the appointment of some officers under him. Our Food Production Commissioner is not exclusively in charge of Food Production work as wanted by Hon'ble Jairamdas Daulatram. He is also the Commissioner for Civil Supplies in charge of distribution of Food Supplies though the major portion of the work will be done by the incumbat of the new post of Director of Civil Supplies. No action is perhaps called for on this suggestion.

Item (ii) on p. 1 above: Our requirements of these materials have already been communicated to India - in Lr. (Rs.) 3382 Development, dated 24.6.1949. No action is called for on this.

Item (iii) on p. 1 above: It is for the Centre to take action in the matter.

Item (iv) above: Collectors of Districts and Departments of the Secretariat have already been impressed with the 'priority' nature of food production work and no separate action is perhaps necessary in this. (Public Works Department is concerned with the suggestion to show down building works and direct the staff Grow More Food Irrigation works)

Item (v) above: There is a prize scheme which is under consideration of Government.

Item (vi) above: This is for Food Department.

In addition to these suggestions, Hon'ble Sri Jairamdas has indicated the lines on which the Government of India would be prepared to help the Provincial Governments namely (1) financial help to the extent possible, consistent with the growing needs of the Government of India (2) lending Defence Departments' technical personnel and making available earth moving machinery (3) coordination of the efforts of all provinces so as to fit in with the basic plan of agricultural production and (4) Provision of a Central Agency for getting over difficulties of movement and transport. No action is called for on any of the proceedings. This may be recorded after perusal by Food Department with reference to item (vi) as p. 1 above.

Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture may see before sending file to Food and Public Works Department.

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FOOD (A) DEPARTMENT.

A.S.

The file has been sent to this Department with reference to item vi) at p. 1 above regarding the utilisation of the food grains of Rs. 2 crores, odd, sanctioned by the Government of India as the quantities of foodgrains produced in Madras Province during the period Nov'47 to February, 1949, for food production and with it 'z' on p. 2 ante. The pre-vious Secretary (Sri Kumarayya) was present at the discussions with Hon'ble Minister, Food (India) on 4.6.1949 and this question has been examined and is being dealt with in a separate file C.No. 19620.A/49, which has been seen by Development, Revenue, and Finance Depart-